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**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
June 15, 2020**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
John Igneri
John Bove
John Flynn
Henry Dachowitz

Staff: Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer

Others: John Marcin, Project Manager, SUEZ
Matthew Brown, Asst. Project Manager, SUEZ

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:31PM.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON MAY 11, 2020 (COPY INCLUDED)

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY FOR PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021.

**** MR. FLYNN MOVED TO NOMINATE THE CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE JANUARY 27, 2016 AGREEMENT WITH ARCADIS U.S., INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCOPE OF SERVICES LETTER DATED JUNE 9, 2020. (COPY INCLUDED)

ACCOUNT NO. TBD-WWTP REHABILITATION/IMPROVEMENT

Mr. Kolb said there are capital funds available beginning July 1, 2020, in the amount of \$750,000 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and would like to encumber the funds with Arcadis to update the facility plan. He said once that has been completed they will focus on future growth within the city and the

current and future flows to the Wastewater Treatment Plant to be sure we have capacity over the next 10-20 years. Mr. Oustafine asked Mr. Kolb if he expects to spend the \$750,000 over the next two years. Mr. Kolb said “yes”.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF BALANCES IN THE FOLLING ACCOUNTS SET ASIDE
IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 TO FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 TO BE USED FOR THE SAME
PURPOSE THE FUNDS WERE INTENDED FOR.**

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>
224062-5298	\$250,000	C.H. Nickerson & Co., Inc.
224062-5298	\$41,687	Software Consulting Associates

Mr. Kolb said this is an accounting exercise and both vendors were approved for the specific amounts for fiscal year 2019/20 spending however, the projects with not be completed by the close of this fiscal year.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

- a. SUEZ Monthly Operating Report- May 2020 (copy included)

Mr. Marcin reported and said that he and Mr. Kolb have been working on developing a monthly report and have put together an executive summary for the board that cover the activities since May 18, 2020. He said if anyone on the board would like anything added to the report to contact him or Mr. Kolb and they would be happy to add any areas of interest.

Mr. Marcin reported on the highlights and said that they have started the contract on May 18, 2020, at midnight and had a good transition and have been operating the facility ever since. He said they have operated their Covid 19 operational continuity plan which included training, equipment, supplies and a number of procedures and have worked closely with the city throughout this entire process. They are currently at a severity level three which requests staff to split shifts and alternate weeks and he is hoping to be out of that severity level in the next few weeks. He said they were able to transition all of the union employees who were interested in coming over and there were 17 in total, and have hired two new employees at the beginning of June so there is now a full staff of 24. They continue to have the regular transition meetings between the city’s and Suez’s transition teams which has been very helpful.

Mr. Marcin said they were in compliance with all permit limits for the month of May and all of the reports have been submitted. There was a reportable sanitary sewer overflow that occurred on May 31, 2020, at 9 Lisa Court due to a blockage in the main line which resulted in an overflow out of the customers clean out in their front yard of approximately 25 gallons and it was reported to the CT DEEP. Mr. Marcin said they also had a contract exceedance for fecal coliform on May 22, 2020, which was a result in the loss of a chlorine pumps and the problem has been remedied and was not permit violation. The total nitrogen was 502 pounds per day and is significantly below the per nitrogen credit target and well below the permit limit.

Mr. Igneri said recently there was an article from Yale University noting that the Coronavirus can be spread through sewage and asked if Norwalk has had any issues regarding that. Mr. Marcin said there has been “spotty reports” on that type of information and the Connecticut DEEP released statement stating that based on their records they did not have any confirmed cases of Covid being transmitted through an employee working at a Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said he has not had any employees from SUEZ who have contracted the virus from working at the wastewater plants but are always keeping a close eye on the research.

7. REPORTS

a. FY 19/20 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that everything is tracking as expected on the expense side but pointed out on the revenue side septage is tracking lower than anticipated, but since SUEZ has been onsite they have been confirming that no fats, oils and grease is being dumped and are collecting septage manifest that can be used for billing purposes. Mr. Oustafine said a few years ago the WPCA had discussed aggressively pursuing Fats, Oils and Grease as a revenue stream and asked if that is something worth discussing. Mr. Marcin said the current facilities are not set up to receive that and adequately treat it so there would need to be capital improvements made to the facility and additional equipment installed. There are other areas in Connecticut that are in that business and he will gather some information to present at next month’s meeting.

b. Discussion on Project Close-out with OMI

Mr. Kolb said that there were eight items that staff was in the process of working out with OMI to either close out or agree to some type of ETER settlement and the biggest item was related to the collection system. With all of the ongoing discussion and a lot of effort by both sides OMI did almost meet 95% their obligation and had contributed \$260,000 to the ETER Fund as well as an additional \$10,000 contribution that was related to the blowers.

c. Discussion on WPCA Projects:

1) Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations

Mr. Kolb said due to Covid-19 Green Mountain Pipeline Services has remained out of state but are now back in town. He said that AJ Penna is their subcontractor and staff is currently working with them on excavation repairs that they are able to do without the support of Green Mountain Pipeline Services.

2) Outfall 002-1- Chlorination/ Dechlorination Improvements

Mr. Kolb said the project is moving along well and C. H. Nickerson is onsite each day and still anticipate that the new system will be online in early August.

3) SCADA Upgrade Phase III

Mr. Kolb said staff has had multiple meetings with the SUEZ team to discuss phase III and will be moving forward.

d. Sewer Use Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said the appeals to date are \$112,077.

e. Information Copies: None

8. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd